

give the pith and substance of an elaborate law argument, compressed into one-fifth of the language in which it was made. Why, sir, the result was exactly what a little experience would have taught, perhaps what reflection should have taught us. It was very soon obvious to every one who came to look over his "sketch." Sir, such sketches, instead of benefiting our constituents, would have made their representatives ridiculous. It could not be done. It must be obvious, that in any thing like a connected, continuous argument, to cut out four-fifths, would be to destroy it. In my own case the reporter was aware of this, and volunteered the remark for his own justification, that he could not do justice to the argument. Other gentlemen had found the same to be the case with their speeches and we have all been forced to amplify and extend these sketches, so as to make our arguments intelligible. What then was the reporter to do? Was he to insist on putting into the hands of the printer, as a gentleman's argument, that which the gentleman told him was not his argument, to publish as opinions expressed here, what he was told were not the opinions expressed?

The reporter, sir, has no right to publish for me any thing which I have not said, and after I have desired him to forbear publishing it, because it was not said. He had then, no alternative but to enlarge the matter to be reported so to include as much of the debate as would make it intelligible or give just cause of offence to members. Sir, I do not recognise the authority of the committee as the gentleman from Allegany seems to do. I admit no authority in them or any one else to take notes of my speech, and in despite of my own convictions, made according to the actual character of the debate, and from these, deliver to the printer such portions of it only, as when separated from the rest, will convey no accurate impression of what my speech was.

Mr. SMITH said he did not mean that the committee should do any such thing but that when they discovered extended speeches they might have said to the reporter, at the time, "this is beyond the term of your contract; we hold you to your contract." That would have been sufficient, and he humbly conceived that was their duty.

Mr. CHAMBERS. As to the duty of the committee, he should say "*quere de hoc*." Why were they, more than any other equal number of members, to keep watch over this matter? They were named to make a contract, and they had performed that duty, reported their labor and the House had confirmed it. For one, sir, I had rather pay three times the amount to have a fair report of what we do say, than one farthing to have nonsense made of all we say. As to "extended debates," if it was intended to allude to reports of speeches of larger dimensions in the Register, than upon the floor of the House, they have no personal interest in it. On no occasion have I used any other license than to correct the phraseology and arrange the course of argument so as to preserve, with as perfect accuracy as possible, the line and substance of argument actually used here. No reported speech of mine contains any thing not said here, and as much abbreviated as

the want of time in correcting the notes would allow. Well, sir, in point of fact, this proceeding has gone on regularly, day by day. We have received, used and distributed these reported debates and no objection to their length has been made by any one. It was rightly said by the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr. Brent,) that objection ought to have been made at the time, certainly, if not on the first departure, it should have been in some reasonable time after the departure became habitual. According to every principle of common justice, and certainly according to principles of common law, if one party accepts the services of another, continues to employ him and use the fruits of his labor, he is bound to compensate him the fair value of such services. No, sir, he cannot take the benefit of his labor and then tell him he has done more than he required him to do. This would not do before a court and jury, according to the most rigid rules of sheer law. Then here we are. The fund appropriated for the purpose is exhausted. It is exhausted in pursuing a practice begun and continued under our observation and sanctioned and ratified by our adoption. More labor is necessary, or the services we have had must be useless—worse than useless. The disappointment will be greater to the public, besides the loss to subscribers, than if we had never commenced reporting. Sir, there is but one course we can take; we must have our work done, well done, and we must make a just compensation for doing it. The compensation seems to be large. I am aware of that. But then it must be remembered, as had been stated, that the occupation required a peculiar talent and that it could only be pursued at limited intervals and not often for long periods, and the rate of compensation must be regulated by such considerations as these. Now, my friend from Caroline, [Mr. Thawley,] will not probably appreciate fully what I have urged about the difficulty of compressing long arguments, as he rarely gratifies us with a speech, and when he does so, is much more apt to give us a pithy remark instead of a long talk; yet he will see the force of this last argument, because we have illustrations constantly before us. He has seen an individual indicted for a serious crime, which put his character and his life in jeopardy; or, the owner of a large domain contending for some of his fine fields. What does he do? Why, he goes right away to a lawyer. And, he does not go to the cheap lawyer, but to the able lawyer. Well, the case comes up, and, in the course of an hour or two, the criminal is acquitted or the title to the estate settled, and then comes the compensation—the fee. How much? Why, five hundred.

Yes, sir, and he pays it cheerfully; and so he should, when he remembers that it has cost that lawyer, besides the hazard of success, years of toil and labor to prepare himself to gladden the hearts of that client, and his family, and his friends, and relieve their anxious fears, by procuring an acquittal to the prisoner, or by getting a verdict from the jury in the ejectment case. Now, sir, we have here a most important ejectment case; an ejectment instituted against our